



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,796	01/11/2002	David Glen White	RCA89647	5621

7590 09/30/2005

Joseph S Tripoli
Thomson Multimedia Licensing Inc
PO Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08540

EXAMINER

TRAN, TRANG U

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2614

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/030,796

Applicant(s)

WHITE ET AL.

Examiner

Trang U. Tran

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on January 11, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-5, drawn to an apparatus for isolating a noise intolerant device.

Group II, claim(s) 6-7, drawn to a television receiver for receiving and processing television signals.

Group III, claim(s) 8-11, drawn to a method for isolating a phase-lock loop in a tuner of a television receiver.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The invention of Group I is directed to an apparatus for isolating a noise intolerant device from a source of noise comprising a processor for producing clock and data signals and a control signal; and a digital bus that couples said clock and data signals to a buffer, where, in response to said control signal, said buffer selectively couples said clock and data signals to respective clock and data inputs of said noise intolerant device such that said noise intolerant device is operatively coupled to said processor via said digital bus only when said processor is communicating with said noise intolerant device. The invention of Group I does not relate to a front-end assembly comprising a tuner having a down converter coupled to a phase-lock loop, said phase-lock loop coupled to an output of said buffer, at least one demodulator for demodulating said television signals, coupled to said down-converter, such that said noise intolerant device is operatively coupled to said processor via said digital bus only when said processor is communicating with said noise intolerant device of Group II and does not relate to sending a first command from a processor to a phase-lock loop via a digital bus to generate a frequency tone and sending a second command to a buffer to isolate and phase-lock loop from said processor, whereby said noise intolerant device is operatively coupled to said processor via said digital bus only when said processor is communicating with said noise intolerant device of Group III.

The invention of Group II is directed to a television receiver for receiving and processing television signals comprising a controller assembly comprising an integrated circuit bus having a clock signal path and a data signal path, a processor, coupled to said clock and data paths, and IIC bus expander coupled to said processor via said clock and data paths, and a buffer coupled to an output of said IIC bus expander; a front-end assembly comprising a tuner having a down converter coupled to a phase-lock loop, said phase-lock loop coupled to an output of said buffer, at least one demodulator for demodulating said television signals, coupled to said down-converter, such that said noise intolerant device is operatively coupled to said processor via said digital bus only when said processor is communicating with said noise intolerant device; and at least one video and audio processor for processing said modulated television signals to produce audio and video signals. The invention of Group II does not relate to where, in response to said control signal, said buffer selectively couples said clock and data signals to respective clock and data inputs of said noise intolerant device such that said noise intolerant device is operatively coupled to said processor via said digital bus only when said processor is communicating with said noise intolerant device of Group I and does not relate to sending a first command from a processor to a phase-lock loop via a digital bus to generate a frequency tone and sending a second command to a buffer to isolate and phase-lock loop from said processor, whereby said noise intolerant device is operatively coupled to said processor via said digital bus only when said processor is communicating with said noise intolerant device of Group III.

The invention of Group III is directed to a method for isolating a phase-lock loop in a tuner of a television receiver comprising the steps of sending a first command from a processor to a phase-lock loop via a digital bus to generate a frequency tone and sending a second command to a buffer to isolate and phase-lock loop from said processor, whereby said noise intolerant device is operatively coupled to said processor via said digital bus only when said processor is communicating with said noise intolerant device. The invention of Group III does not relate to where, in response to said control signal, said buffer selectively couples said clock and data signals to respective clock and data inputs of said noise intolerant device such that said noise intolerant device is operatively coupled to said processor via said digital bus only when said processor is communicating with said noise intolerant device of Group I and does not relate to a front-end assembly comprising a tuner having a down converter coupled to a phase-lock loop, said phase-lock loop coupled to an output of said buffer, at least one demodulator for demodulating said television signals, coupled to said down-converter, such that said noise intolerant device is operatively coupled to said processor via said digital bus only when said processor is communicating with said noise intolerant device of Group II.

3. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trang U. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7358. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TT
September 27, 2005



Trang U. Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2614